What is a common order of service within non-liturgical, fundamentalist, evangelical churches?

A common non-liturgical evangelical service is built around congregational singing, a sermon as the central act, and prayer, with announcements and offerings woven in before or after the message. While details vary by denomination and local culture, most fundamentalist/evangelical churches follow a broadly similar flow.[1] [2]

Typical Service Flow

- **Pre-service / opening**: Informal gathering, instrumental prelude, then a brief welcome and opening prayer or "call to worship."[3] [4]
- **Initial singing set**: 2–4 songs led by a worship team or song leader, often a mix of hymns and contemporary songs, framed as corporate praise.[5] [3]
- **Announcements & offering**: Verbal announcements about church life, followed by the collection of tithes and offerings, sometimes with a special song.[4] [3]

Word-Centered Middle

- **Scripture reading and/or pastoral prayer**: A short Bible reading and a substantial "pastoral prayer" that intercedes for the congregation and mission needs.[6] [7]
- **Sermon**: Expository or topical preaching of 30–50 minutes is treated as the primary event, with the entire service arranged to support this proclamation.[8] [1]

Response and Invitation

- **Response song(s)**: One or two songs selected to invite reflection and response to the sermon's message.[3] [4]
- **Altar call / invitation (in many fundamentalist settings)**: Invitation to come forward for conversion, rededication, or prayer, often over one or more repeated stanzas of a hymn like "Just As I Am."[2] [4]

Concluding Elements

- **Closing remarks & benediction**: Brief closing comments, sometimes requests for specific prayer, followed by a spoken blessing or closing prayer.[9] [10]
- **Post-service fellowship**: Informal visiting in the foyer or hall, often treated as an extension of congregational life rather than structured liturgy.[11] [1]

Common “Elements” Regardless of Order

Across conservative evangelical and fundamentalist churches, the key **elements** tend to be stable even when the order shifts slightly:

- Congregational singing (hymns/choruses).[12] [5]
- Prayer (opening, pastoral, before/after sermon).[12] [4]
- Reading and preaching of Scripture.[7] [6]
- Offering and occasional testimony or announcements.[11] [12]
- Ordinances (baptism and the Lord’s Supper) observed periodically rather than weekly, often inserted before or after the sermon.[6] [2]

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